



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

February 6, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Hospital CEOs
LME Directors

FROM: Mike Moseley 

RE: Increased Admissions

As many of you are aware, North Carolina's State psychiatric hospitals have been experiencing an upward trend of increased admissions over the past four years. To date, our hospitals have continued to accept patients beyond their capacity in order to accommodate the needs of consumers and local communities. At times, the census on our admissions units has been so high that it has caused us serious concerns regarding patient safety and treatment capability. In order to address these concerns, in the future when the census in a hospital's admission unit exceeds 110% of the unit's capacity, we will be delaying admissions from community hospitals until we can decrease capacity to a level that does not jeopardize patient safety and well being.

We have been working with Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom to develop alternative solutions to this problem. This is a difficult issue which has financial, legal and ethical implications. At the same time, as you know, we are working with you and the North Carolina Hospital Association to increase alternatives for crisis services in the community. Until that capacity is expanded and until we develop alternatives to address the problem of escalating state hospital admissions, we ask that you be aware of this issue and work together to promote safe, appropriate transfers of patients to the state facilities.

I will continue to keep you abreast of our efforts to address this concern and provide you with updates as they unfold. I thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter and for your ongoing commitment to serving the citizens of North Carolina.

MM/lw

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Allen Dobson, MD
Dan Stewart
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team
DMH/DD/SAS Management Leadership Team
State Facility Directors
Yvonne Copeland

Patrice Roesler
MH Commission Chair
Coalition 2001 Chair
SCFAC Chair
Kory Goldsmith
Debbie Crane
Mike Vicario

